
WTO and Agriculture

What's at Stake for Florida?

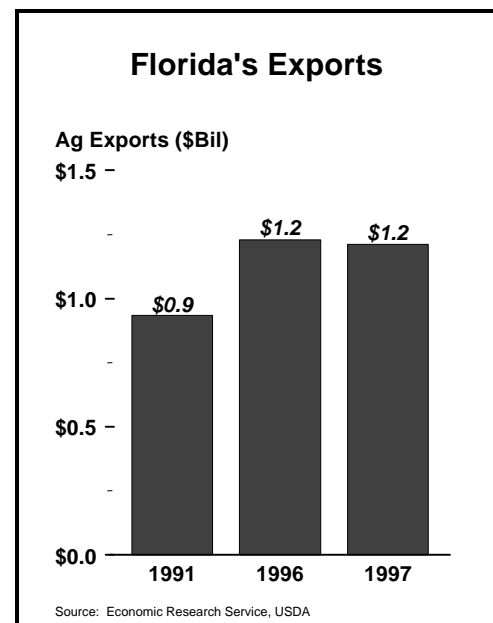
Florida is an important producer of agricultural products and a large exporter. In 1997, Florida ranked 16th among all 50 states in the value of its agricultural exports. The state's exports totaled an estimated \$1.2 billion. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting about 24,300 jobs both on and off the farm in food processing, transportation and manufacturing. Exports are increasingly important to Florida's agricultural and state-wide economy. Measured as exports divided by farm cash receipts, the state's reliance on agricultural exports rose from 15% to 19% since 1991.

Florida's top five agricultural exports in 1997 were:

- # fruits and preparations -- \$615 million
- # vegetables and preparations -- \$112 million
- # animal feeds and fodders -- \$66 million
- # poultry meat and products -- \$49 million
- # live animals and red meats -- \$33 million

World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Florida's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *fair access* to growing global markets.

Florida Producers Benefit from Trade Agreements



Florida is already benefitting from a number of agricultural trade agreements. While there is still much to be done, examples of new market opportunities for Florida include:

- # Florida, the nation's leading orange and grapefruit producer, benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan lowers its tariffs to 32% (in-season) and 16% (out-of-season) for oranges, and South Korea establishes a tariff-rate quota for oranges. Japan and Korea are reducing their tariffs on fresh grapefruit to 10% and 30%, respectively.
- # Florida, the nation's leading fresh tomato producer, benefits from a bilateral agreement with Japan to lift its ban on U.S. fresh tomatoes. Under the Uruguay Round, Thailand will cut tariffs 50% on tomato juice and vegetable juice mixtures.
- # As the nation's leading sweet corn producer, Florida benefits under the Uruguay Round as Japan, Korea, and Thailand lower their tariffs on canned sweet corn. Japan is reducing tariffs on frozen sweet corn from 12.5% to 7.5%.